

TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF (Large Entity)

DEC 28 2007

Docket No.
SH-0027US

In Re Application Of: Takeshi Kamio, et al.

Application No. 09/987,404	Filing Date November 14, 2001	Examiner John M. Hoffmann	Customer No. 21254	Group Art Unit 1731	Confirmation No. 7029
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Invention: **METHOD FOR SINTERING POROUS-GLASS MATERIAL, AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING PREFORM AND OPTICAL FIBER**

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Transmitted herewith is the Appeal Brief in this application, with respect to the Notice of Appeal filed on:

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Dated: December 28, 2007

Scott M. Tulino, Esq.
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Appellants' Brief on Appeal
U.S. Application Serial No. 09/987,404



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

In re Application of

Takeshi Kamio, et al.

Serial No.: 09/987,404

Group Art Unit: 1731

Filed: November 14, 2001

Examiner: John M. Hoffman

For: METHOD FOR SINTERING POROUS-GLASS MATERIAL, AND
METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING PREFORM AND OPTICAL FIBER

APPELLANTS' BRIEF ON APPEAL

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
Box AF

Sir:

Appellants respectfully appeal the final rejection of claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17, and 21-25 in the Final Office Action dated August 1, 2007. A Notice of Appeal was timely filed on November 1, 2007.

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is Shin-Etsu Chemical Co., Ltd., assignee of 100% interest of the above-referenced patent application.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no other appeals or interferences known to Appellants, Appellants' legal representative, or Assignee, which would directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this appeal.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17, and 21-25 are all of the claims pending in the Application. Claims 2, 9, 16, and 18-20 were previously canceled and are no longer pending in the Application. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17, and 21-25, all of the claims involved in the appeal, are set forth fully in the attached Appendix.

Claims 1, 3-7, and 21-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishikawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,306,322). Claims 8, 10-15, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishikawa in view of Antos (U.S. Patent No. 6,289,698).

Appellants respectfully appeal the rejections of claims 1, 3-7, and 21-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishikawa and claims 8, 10-15, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishikawa in view of Antos, which are the sole issues in this Appeal.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

An Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 was filed on July 23, 2007. The claims were amended in the Amendment. The claims in the Appendix reflect the version of the claims in the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 submitted on July 23, 2007.

The Examiner issued a Final Office Action on August 1, 2007, rejecting claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17, and 21-25.

A Notice of Appeal was timely filed on November 1, 2007.

Therefore, the claims are pending as set forth in the Appendix.

V. SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Appellants point out that reference numbers, figure numbers, and references to passages in the Specification used in this section, and other sections, of the Appeal Brief are provided merely for the benefit of the Board and for meeting the requirements set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(v) and are not meant to limit the scope of the claimed invention in any manner.

INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

The claimed invention, as set forth in exemplary claim 1, is directed to a method for sintering a porous-glass material, having a core inside the porous-glass material, in a furnace to form a glass base material, which is a base material for an optical fiber (e.g., see Application at page 3, lines 18-27, page 11, line 30 through page 13, line 7, and Figure 3). The method includes preparing a ring heater having an opening, the opening having an inner diameter (D), through which the porous-glass material passes, for heating the porous-glass material (e.g., see Application at page 3, lines 8-27), preparing the porous-glass material having an outer diameter (d) (e.g., S10; see Application at Figure 3, page 11, lines 30-33), putting the porous-glass material, formed by performing the preparing the porous-glass material, in the furnace (e.g., S14; see Application at Figure 3, page 12, line 10), and heating the porous-glass material in an atmosphere of dehydration gas and inert gas with the ring heater (e.g., S16-S20; see Application at Figure 3, page 12, lines 11-34). The outer diameter(d) of the porous-glass material is within a range of $0.5xD < d < 0.9xD$ (e.g., see Application at page 11, lines 25-28).

INDEPENDENT CLAIM 8

The claimed invention, as set forth in exemplary claim 8, is directed to a method for manufacturing a preform, which is a base material of an optical fiber, in a furnace (e.g., see Application at page 4, lines 13-24, page 11, line 30 through page 13, line 7, and Figure 3). The method includes preparing a ring heater having an opening, the opening having an inner diameter (D), through which a porous-glass material, having a core inside the porous-glass material, which is a base material of the preform, passes, for heating the porous-glass material (e.g., see Application at page 4, lines 13-24), forming the porous-glass material having an outer diameter (d) (e.g., S10; see Application at Figure 3, page 11, lines 30-33), putting the porous-glass material, formed by performing the forming the porous-glass material, in the furnace (e.g., S14; see Application at Figure 3, page 12, line 10), sintering the porous-glass material in an atmosphere of dehydration gas and inert gas with the ring heater (e.g., S16-S20; see Application at Figure 3, page 12 line 30 through page 13, line 3), and elongating the sintered porous-glass material to form the preform (e.g., see Application at page 4, lines 13-24), wherein the outer diameter (d) of the porous-glass material is within a range of $0.5xD < d < 0.9xD$ (e.g., see Application at page 11, lines 25-28).

INDEPENDENT CLAIM 15

The claimed invention, as set forth in exemplary claim 15, is directed to a method for manufacturing an optical fiber in a furnace (e.g., see Application at page 5, lines 10-21, page 11, line 30 through page 13, line 7, and Figure 3). The method includes preparing a ring heater having an opening, the opening having an inner diameter (D), through which a porous-

glass material, having a core inside the porous-glass material, which is a base material of the optical fiber, passes, for heating the porous-glass material (e.g., see Application at page 5, lines 10-21), forming the porous -glass material having an outer diameter (d) (e.g., S10; see Application at Figure 3, page 11, lines 30-33), putting the porous-glass material, formed by performing the forming the porous-glass material, in the furnace (e.g., S14; see Application at Figure 3, page 12, line 10), sintering the porous-glass material in an atmosphere of dehydration gas and inert gas with the ring heater (e.g., S16-S20; see Application at Figure 3, page 12 line 30 through page 13, line 3), elongating the sintered porous-glass material to form a preform (e.g., see Application at page 5, lines 10-21), and drawing the preform to form the optical fiber(e.g., see Application at page 5, lines 10-21). The outer diameter (d) of the porous-glass material material is within a range of $0.5xD < d < 0.9xD$ (e.g., see Application at page 11, lines 25-28).

The non-obvious and unique combination of features allows the claimed invention to ensure uniform vitrification in the radial direction of the porous-glass material (see Application at page 9, lines 30-33).

Each of the features recited in dependent claims 3-7, 10-14, 17, 21-25 are described in detail in the Specification (e.g., see pages 6-19) and Figures 1-5 of the Application.

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

The issues presented for review by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences are whether claims 1, 3-7, and 21-25 are unpatentable over Ishikawa, and whether claims 8, 10-15, and 17 are unpatentable over Ishikawa in view of Antos.

VII. ARGUMENT

A. THE EXAMINER'S POSITION

In the Final Office Action dated August 1, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-7, and 21-25 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ishikawa. Furthermore, in the Final Office Action dated August 1, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 8, 10-15, and 17 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ishikawa in view of Antos.

In the Final Office Action dated August 1, 2007, the Examiner maintained that “*it would have been obvious to use as big or as small a preform as desired – depending on how much fiber one wishes to make.*” (See Office Action dated August 1, 2007 at page 4).

B. APPELLANT'S POSITION

To summarize, Appellant submits that the Examiner's position is flawed as a matter of fact and law. Thus, claims 1, 3-7, and 21-25 are not unpatentable over Ishikawa and claims 8, 10-15, and 17 are not unpatentable over Ishikawa in view of Antos.

i) Claims 1, 3-7, and 21-25 are not unpatentable over Ishikawa.

1. INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

a. The Examiner's Position is Flawed as a Matter of Fact and Law.

The Examiner alleged that the claimed invention of claims 1, 3-7, and 21-25 would have been obvious in view of Ishikawa. Appellants submit, however, that there are features of the claimed invention that are not taught nor suggested by Ishikawa.

Appellant's Brief on Appeal
U.S. Application Serial No. 09/987,404

That is, Ishikawa does not teach or suggest that "*said predetermined range of said outer diameter (d) of said porous-glass material is within $0.5xD < d < 0.9xD$* ", as recited in exemplary claim 1 (and similarly recited in claims 8 and 15 discussed below).

The Examiner does not even allege that Ishikawa teaches or suggests this feature of the claimed invention. Indeed, the Examiner conceded that Ishikawa teaches a ratio of $d/D = 0.93$, which is outside of the claimed range. The Examiner, however, alleges that the claimed range would have been obvious in view of Ishikawa.

Appellants have previously submitted two declarations under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 to establish the criticality of the range recited in the claimed invention and thus rebut the Examiner's alleged *prima facie* case of obviousness (Appellants maintain that since the ratio taught in Ishikawa is outside of the claimed range, the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness).

In order to clearly verify the evidence that unexpected results are obtained by using a ratio (d/D) of $0.5 < d/D < 0.9$, Appellants submitted two graphs (Graph 1 and Graph 2) regarding test results submitted in Declarations under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132. Graph 1 is a line graph with ratio (d/D) on the horizontal axis and eccentricity error on the vertical axis, while Graph 2 is a bar graph with ratio (d/D) on the horizontal axis and number of test pieces of which a surface was damaged on the vertical axis (Graph 1 graphically illustrates the data included in Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 submitted on December 7, 2006; Graph 2 graphically illustrates the data included in the Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 submitted on July 19, 2006).

Appellant's Brief on Appeal
U.S. Application Serial No. 09/987,404

As clearly illustrated in Graph 1, in the case that d/D exceeds 0.5, the eccentricity error is significantly decreased. Accordingly, Appellants submit that the claimed range ($0.5 < d/D$) obtains unexpected results.

Furthermore, as shown in Graph 2, in the case that d/D exceeds 0.9, the number of test pieces (glass base material) of which a surface is damaged is increased. Accordingly, Appellants submit that the claimed range ($d/D < 0.9$) obtains unexpected results.

The Examiner, in the Response to Arguments section of the Office Action dated March 22, 2007, alleged that Appellants have not provided any evidence to support the above arguments that the range recited in the claimed invention is significant and unexpected. The Examiner, however, is clearly incorrect.

That is, the M.P.E.P. clearly sets forth: "Evidence of unexpected properties may be in the form of a direct or indirect comparison of the claimed invention with the closest prior art which is commensurate with the claims." (See M.P.E.P. § 716.02 (b, e)).

In the two Declarations under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132, Appellants provided a comparison of the claimed invention to the closest prior art, Ishikawa.

Indeed, test subjects No. 1 and No. 2 are within the claimed range while No. 3 ($d/D = 0.93$) is the ratio of Ishikawa (e.g., see Graph 2). Accordingly, Appellants provided a comparison of the claimed invention and the closest prior art, as set forth in M.P.E.P. § 716.02 (b, e)).

During a personal interview with the Examiner, conducted on July 11, 2007 and summarized below, the Examiner indicated that he was not aware of and did not consider M.P.E.P. § 716.02 (b, e)) when reviewing the Declarations.

Appellant's Brief on Appeal
U.S. Application Serial No. 09/987,404

Appellants respectfully requested the Examiner to consider M.P.E.P. § 716.02 when reviewing the Declarations as M.P.E.P. § 716.02 controls the present issue.

Appellants submit that since they have clearly provided evidence in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 716.02 (b, e), Appellants have clearly met their burden in rebutting the Examiner's allegations regarding obviousness.

Moreover, Appellants submit that Ishikawa discloses a synthetic silica glass manufacturing method. A feature of the method is to manufacture a synthetic silica glass in a furnace under a heat treatment of an atmosphere including an inert gas and silicon tetrachloride (SiCl_4) gas. Thus, the synthetic silica gas containing neither moisture nor impurities can be manufactured. Specifically, Ishikawa fails to teach or suggest a ratio of (d/D) and (d/L), together with an eccentricity error of the core as recited in the claimed invention and as evidenced in the Declarations submitted under 37 C.F.R. 1.132.

In the Response to Arguments section of the Office Action dated March 22, 2007, the Examiner erroneously alleged, "it is further argued that Ishikawa fails to teach or suggest a ratio together with an eccentricity error of the core as recited in the claimed invention. Examiner does not understand this argument. The claims do not limit any error." (See Office Action dated March 22, 2007 at page 5). The Examiner, however, is clearly incorrect. The combination of features referred to by the Examiner is clearly recited in exemplary claim 6. Appellants point out that the Examiner must consider all of the pending claims, not just the independent claims.

In the Response to Arguments section of the Office Action dated August 1, 2007, the Examiner alleged, "*it would have been obvious to use as big or as small a preform as claimed*

– *depending on how much fiber one wants to make.*” (See Office Action dated August 1, 2007 at page 4).

Appellants submit, however, that the claimed invention does not merely recite a “size” of the preform. Indeed, the claimed invention recites a specific relationship of the outer diameter of the preform to the inner diameter of the ring heater.

Furthermore, the Examiner alleged, “*Applicant refers to two graphs. It is unclear what graphs applicant is referring to. Examiner could only find one graph in the application file.*” (See Office Action dated August 1, 2007 at page 4). The Examiner, however, is clearly incorrect.

That is, on February 7, 2007, Appellants submitted an executed copy of a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 (the original Declaration submitted on December 7, 2006 was unexecuted) with a second copy of each of Graph 1 and Graph 2 (as evidenced by the enclosed United States Patent and Trademark Office dated-stamped filing receipt). In the event the Examiner has misplaced one of Graph 1 and Graph 2, Appellants have submitted a third copy of each of Graph 1 and Graph 2 for the record.

Appellants submit that Graph 1 and Graph 2 were entered into the record on February 7, 2007, as clearly evidenced by the enclosed United States Patent and Trademark Office dated-stamped filing receipt. Appellants, however, point out (as was previously pointed out to the Examiner) that Graph 1 graphically illustrates the data included in Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 submitted on December 7, 2006; Graph 2 graphically illustrates the data included in the Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 submitted on July 19, 2006. Accordingly, even without reference to Graph 1 and Graph 2, the Examiner would have been presented with all of the presented data.

Appellant's Brief on Appeal
U.S. Application Serial No. 09/987,404

The Examiner additionally alleged that the Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 was unsigned (see Office Action dated August 1, 2007 at page 4). Appellants point out (as was previously pointed out to the Examiner) that a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132, with Graph 1 and Graph 2, was filed on December 7, 2006. Subsequently, a executed copy of the Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132, filed on December 7, 2006, was filed on February 7, 2007.

The test data table submit in the Declaration filed on July 19, 2006, and recreated below, verifies that a surface of the porous-glass material was not damaged in the case where $d/D < 0.9$ (test numbers 1 and 2). Specifically, in the test results shown in the table, a judgment of acceptance depends upon whether or not even one of 50 test pieces (porous-glass material) was damaged. Accordingly, test numbers 1 and 2 ($d/D < 0.9$, namely, claimed range) are accepted.

In stark contrast, test numbers 3 and 4 ($d/D > 0.9$, namely, out of the claimed range) are not excepted. This evidence is a reason why the results of the claimed range ($d/D < 0.9$) are truly important and truly unexpected.

Appellant's Brief on Appeal
U.S. Application Serial No. 09/987,404

Test No.	d (mm)	D (mm)	D/D	Number of test pieces of which surface was not damaged.	Number of test pieces of which surface was damaged.	Number of test pieces caused damage to the furnace.
1	350	400	0.88	50	0	0
2	360	400	0.90	50	0	0
3	370	400	0.93	34	16	0
4	380	400	0.95	0	50	3

Furthermore, Appellants submitted the second Declaration on December 7, 2006 (an executed version was submitted on February 7, 2007) providing further evidence of the importance and unexpected results of the claimed invention. In accordance with the test results shown in the table in the Declaration filed on December 7, 2006 (and reproduced below), a glass base material having a low eccentricity error of a core, the value of which is 0.3% of below, can be manufactured in the case where $d/D > 0.5$ (test numbers 1 to 7, namely, claimed range). On the other hand, in the case where $d/D < 0.5$ (test numbers 8 and 12, namely, out of claimed range), a glass base material having a relatively high eccentricity error of core is manufactured.

Appellants submit that this evidence supports the description at page 10, line 32 to page 11, line 3 of the specification as filed, such that the predetermined range of the outer diameter (d) of the porous-glass material may be determined so that an eccentricity error of a core inside of the glass base material manufactured by sintering the porous-glass material (e.g., 12) becomes 0.4% of less.

Test No.	d (mm)	D (mm)	L (mm)	d/D (-)	d/L (-)	Eccentricity error (%)
1	320	400	400	0.800	0.800	0.15
2	280	400	400	0.700	0.700	0.24
3	260	400	400	0.650	0.650	0.30
4	240	400	400	0.600	0.600	0.29
5	220	400	400	0.550	0.550	0.28
6	210	400	400	0.525	0.525	0.29
7	200	400	400	0.500	0.500	0.30
8	190	400	400	0.475	0.475	0.43
9	180	400	400	0.450	0.450	0.75
10	170	400	400	0.425	0.425	0.71
11	160	400	400	0.400	0.400	0.78
12	150	400	400	0.375	0.375	0.83

Accordingly, Appellants submit that claimed invention, including the claimed range ($0.5 < d/D < 0.9$), can clearly provide tremendous advantages such that a glass base material having a low eccentricity error of a core can be manufactured, and the porous-glass material may not contact with a sidewall of a furnace so that the porous-glass material is not damaged.

Moreover, with respect to the Examiner's position in the Response to Arguments (e.g., see Office Action dated September 7, 2006 at page 6, lines 1-8), Appellants submit that

the claimed range ($0.5 < d/D < 0.9$) of the claimed invention facilitates a design of a porous-glass material sintering apparatus (e.g., 10; see Figure 5 of Application). Specifically, a size of a diameter (D) of a ring heater (e.g., 9), which is suitable for a size of a diameter (d) of the porous-glass material (e.g., 2) can be calculated based on the claimed range (d/D) to prevent the porous-glass material (e.g., 2) from contacting with the sidewall of the furnace (e.g., 5) ($d/D < 0.9$), and to prevent an eccentricity error of the glass base material from increasing ($d/D > 0.5$).

Thus, the apparatus (e.g., 10) can be miniaturized under the condition that a clearance between the porous-glass material (e.g., 2) and the sidewall of the furnace (e.g., 5) become smaller as much as possible. Accordingly, the claimed range (d/D) of the present invention was not accidentally obtained, but was obtained by performing tests to find out a suitable range capable of preventing the porous-glass material from contacting with the sidewall of the furnace, and capable of preventing an eccentricity error of the glass base material from increasing. Based upon this concept, Appellants submit that the Examiner's position is erroneous.

Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that the range recited in claim 1 (and similarly recited in claims 8 and 15) is clearly important and has not been arbitrarily selected as alleged by the Examiner and indeed has provided unexpectedly superior results over the closest prior art of record.

Accordingly, even assuming that Ishikawa may disclose a synthetic silica glass manufacturing method that is somewhat similar to a method for sintering a porous glass material of the claimed invention, Applicants submit that the claimed ranges of the claimed

invention would not have been obvious in view of Ishikawa (taken alone or in combination with Antos).

Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that the Examiner's position is clearly unreasonable.

2. DEPENDENT CLAIMS 3-7 and 21-25

a. The Examiner's Position is Flawed as a Matter of Fact and Law.

Dependent claims 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25 depend from independent claim 1, and further define the claimed invention.

Specifically, claim 3 recites, "*wherein said outer diameter (d) of said porous-glass material is within a range of $0.6xD \leq d \leq 0.8xD$* ". This feature is not taught or suggested by the cited references.

Furthermore, claim 4 recites, "*wherein said ring heater has a vertical length (L)*". This is not taught or suggest by the cited references.

Furthermore, claim 5 recites, "*wherein said outer diameter (d) of said porous-glass material is within a range of $0.5xL \leq d \leq 0.9xL$* ". This feature is not taught or suggest by the cited references.

Furthermore, claim 6 recites, "*wherein an eccentricity error of a core inside a glass base material manufactured by sintering said porous-glass material is substantially 0.4 % or less*". This feature is not taught or suggested by the cited references.

Furthermore, claim 7 recites, "*wherein said heating heats said porous-glass material in said furnace that is provided inside said opening of said ring heater so that a part of said*

Appellant's Brief on Appeal
U.S. Application Serial No. 09/987,404

furnace is surrounded by said ring heater". This feature is not taught or suggested by the cited references.

Furthermore, claim 21 recites, "*wherein said dehydration gas comprises chlorine*". This feature is not taught or suggested by the cited references.

Furthermore, claim 22 recites, "*wherein said inert gas comprises helium*". This feature is not taught or suggested by the cited references.

Furthermore, claim 23 recites, "*wherein said dehydration gas comprises chlorine and said inert gas comprises helium*". This feature is not taught or suggested by the cited references.

Furthermore, claim 24 recites, "*further comprising: descending said porous-glass material to a bottom of said furnace*". This feature is not taught or suggested by the cited references.

Furthermore, claim 25 recites, "*further comprising: rotating said porous-glass material in said furnace*". This feature is not taught or suggested by the cited references.

Therefore, dependent claims 3-7 and 21-25, like independent claim 1, include at least one element, which is not taught or suggested by the alleged combination of Ishikawa.

Therefore, Appellant respectfully submits that the Examiners' position is clearly unreasonable.

ii) **Claims 8, 10-15 and 17 are not unpatentable over Ishikawa in view of Antos.**

1. INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 8 and 15

b. The Examiner's Position is Flawed as a Matter of Fact and Law.

The Examiner alleged that the claimed invention of claims 8, 10-15 and 17 would have been obvious in view of the alleged combination of Ishikawa in view of Antos. Appellants submit, however, that there are features of the claimed invention that are not taught nor suggested by any the cited references (taken alone or in combination).

That is, neither Ishikawa nor Antos, nor any combination thereof, teaches or suggests that “*said predetermined range of said outer diameter (d) of said porous-glass material is within $0.5xD < d < 0.9xD$* ” as recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in claims 8 and 15.

The Examiner does not even allege that Ishikawa nor Antos teaches or suggests this feature of the claimed invention. Indeed, as detailed above in section i), Ishikawa fails to teach or suggest this feature of the claimed invention.

Furthermore, Appellants submit that Antos fails to make up the deficiencies of Ishikawa. Indeed, the Examiner does not even allege that Antos teaches or suggests that the predetermined range of the outer diameter (d) of the porous-glass material is within $0.5xD < d < 0.9xD$.

Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that the Examiner's position is clearly unreasonable.

2. DEPENDENT CLAIMS 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 17

**b. The Examiner's Position is Flawed as a Matter of Fact
and Law.**

Dependent claims 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 17 depend from independent claims 8, 8, 11,, 8, 8, 15, respectively, and further define the claimed invention.

Specifically, claim 10 recites, "*wherein said outer diameter (d) of said porous-glass material is within a range of $0.6xD \leq d \leq 0.8xD$* ". This feature is not taught or suggested by the cited references.

Furthermore, claim 11 recites, "*wherein said ring heater has a vertical length (L)*". This feature is not taught or suggested by the cited references.

Furthermore, claim 12 recites, "*wherein said outer diameter (d) of said porous-glass material is within a range of $0.5xL \leq d \leq 0.9xL$* ". This feature is not taught or suggested by the cited references.

Furthermore, claim 13 recites, "*wherein an eccentricity error of a core inside said sintered porous-glass material is substantially 0.4 % or less*". This feature is not taught or suggested by the cited references.

Furthermore, claim 14 recites, "*wherein said heating heats said porous-glass material in a furnace that is provided inside said opening of said ring heater so that a part of said furnace is surrounded by said ring heater*". This feature is not taught or suggested by the cited references.

Furthermore, claim 17 recites, "*wherein said outer diameter (d) of said porous-glass material comprises substantially $0.6xD \leq d \leq 0.8xD$* ". This feature is not taught or suggested by the cited references.

Appellant's Brief on Appeal
U.S. Application Serial No. 09/987,404

Therefore, dependent claims 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 17, like independent claims 8 and 15, include at least one element, which is not taught or suggested by the alleged combination of Ishikawa and Antos.

Therefore, Appellant respectfully submits that the Examiners' position is clearly unreasonable.

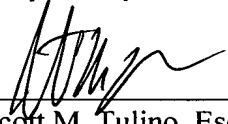
VIII. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Appellant submits that claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17, and 21-25, all of the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and in condition for allowance. Thus, the Board is respectfully requested to remove the rejections of claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17, and 21-25.

Please charge any deficiencies and/or credit any overpayments necessary to enter this paper to Attorney's Deposit Account number 50-0481.

Date: December 28, 2007

Respectfully Submitted,



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CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. A method for sintering a porous-glass material, having a core inside the porous-glass material, in a furnace to form a glass base material, which is a base material for an optical fiber, comprising:
 - preparing a ring heater having an opening, said opening having an inner diameter (D), through which said porous-glass material passes, for heating said porous-glass material;
 - preparing said porous-glass material having an outer diameter (d);
 - putting said porous-glass material, formed by performing said preparing said porous-glass material, in the furnace; and
 - heating said porous-glass material in an atmosphere of dehydration gas and inert gas with said ring heater,wherein said outer diameter(d) of said porous-glass material is within a range of $0.5xD < d < 0.9xD$.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said outer diameter (d) of said porous-glass material is within a range of $0.6xD \leq d \leq 0.8xD$.
4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ring heater has a vertical length (L).
5. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said outer diameter (d) of said porous-glass material is within a range of $0.5xL \leq d \leq 0.9xL$.

6. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein an eccentricity error of a core inside a glass base material manufactured by sintering said porous-glass material is substantially 0.4 % or less.

7. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said heating heats said porous-glass material in said furnace that is provided inside said opening of said ring heater so that a part of said furnace is surrounded by said ring heater.

8. A method for manufacturing a preform, which is a base material of an optical fiber, in a furnace, comprising:

preparing a ring heater having an opening, said opening having an inner diameter (D), through which a porous-glass material, having a core inside said porous-glass material, which is a base material of said preform, passes, for heating said porous-glass material;

forming said porous-glass material having an outer diameter (d);

putting said porous-glass material, formed by performing said forming said porous-glass material, in the furnace;

sintering said porous-glass material in an atmosphere of dehydration gas and inert gas with said ring heater; and

elongating said sintered porous-glass material to form said preform,

wherein said outer diameter (d) of said porous-glass material is within a range of $0.5xD < d < 0.9xD$.

Appellant's Brief on Appeal
U.S. Application Serial No. 09/987,404

10. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said outer diameter (d) of said porous-glass material is within a range of $0.6xD \leq d \leq 0.8xD$.
11. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said ring heater has a vertical length (L).
12. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said outer diameter (d) of said porous-glass material is within a range of $0.5xL \leq d \leq 0.9xL$.
13. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein an eccentricity error of a core inside said sintered porous-glass material is substantially 0.4 % or less.
14. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said heating heats said porous-glass material in a furnace that is provided inside said opening of said ring heater so that a part of said furnace is surrounded by said ring heater.
15. A method for manufacturing an optical fiber in a furnace, comprising:
 - preparing a ring heater having an opening, said opening having an inner diameter (D), through which a porous-glass material, having a core inside said porous-glass material, which is a base material of said optical fiber, passes, for heating said porous-glass material;
 - forming said porous -glass material having an outer diameter (d);
 - putting said porous-glass material, formed by performing said forming said porous-glass material, in the furnace;

sintering said porous-glass material in an atmosphere of dehydration gas and inert gas with said ring heater; and

elongating said sintered porous-glass material to form a preform; and

drawing said preform to form said optical fiber,

wherein said outer diameter (d) of said porous-glass material material is within a range of $0.5xD < d < 0.9xD$.

17. A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said outer diameter (d) of said porous-glass material comprises substantially $0.6xD \leq d \leq 0.8xD$

21. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said dehydration gas comprises chlorine.

22. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said inert gas comprises helium.

23. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said dehydration gas comprises chlorine and said inert gas comprises helium.

24. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
descending said porous-glass material to a bottom of said furnace.

25. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
rotating said porous-glass material in said furnace.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

- 1) Copy of United States Patent and Trademark Office date-stamped postcard filing receipt – entered into record on February 7, 2007.
- 2) Copy of Graph 1 and Graph 2 submitted with executed Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 on February 7, 2007 – entered into record on February 7, 2007.

Appellants' Brief on Appeal
U.S. Application Serial No. 09/987,404

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

Not applicable.



Attorney's Post Card Filing Receipt

Serial Number: 091 987,404

Papers Filed On: 02/07/07

Attorney's Docket Number: SH-002705

☒ Patent

☐ Trademark

Applicant's Name: ISAMIO, et al.

Application Filing Date: 11/14/01

Papers Filed Herewith:

☐ Amendment

☒ Extension (2 months)
Request for Extension of Time

☐ CPA Request

☐ Notice of Appeal

☐ Appeal Brief (in triplicate)

☐ Reply Brief

☐ IDS

☐ 1449 Form w/ 1 Documents

☐ Priority Document(s)

☐ Assignment

☐ Recordation Cover Sheet

☐ Formal Drawings

☐ Drawing Conventions

☐ Issue Fee Transmittal

☐ Missing Parts

☒ Other Preliminary Amendment; Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.132; Request for Continued Examination; Graph 1 & 2

Fees Filed Herewith: \$ 1,240 ☒ Check ☐ Charge Deposit Account: _____

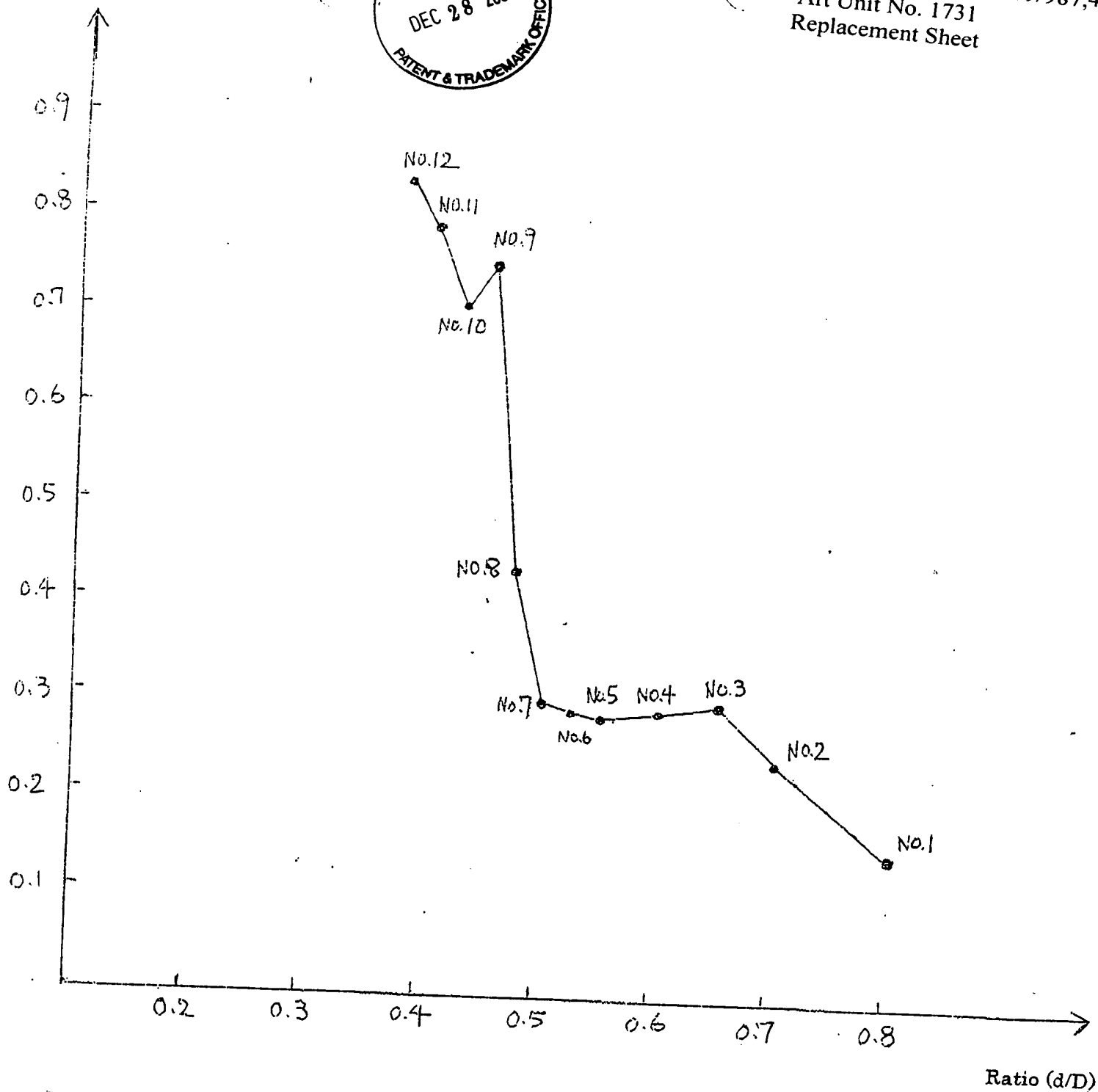
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Hand Delivered

Eccentricity error (%)

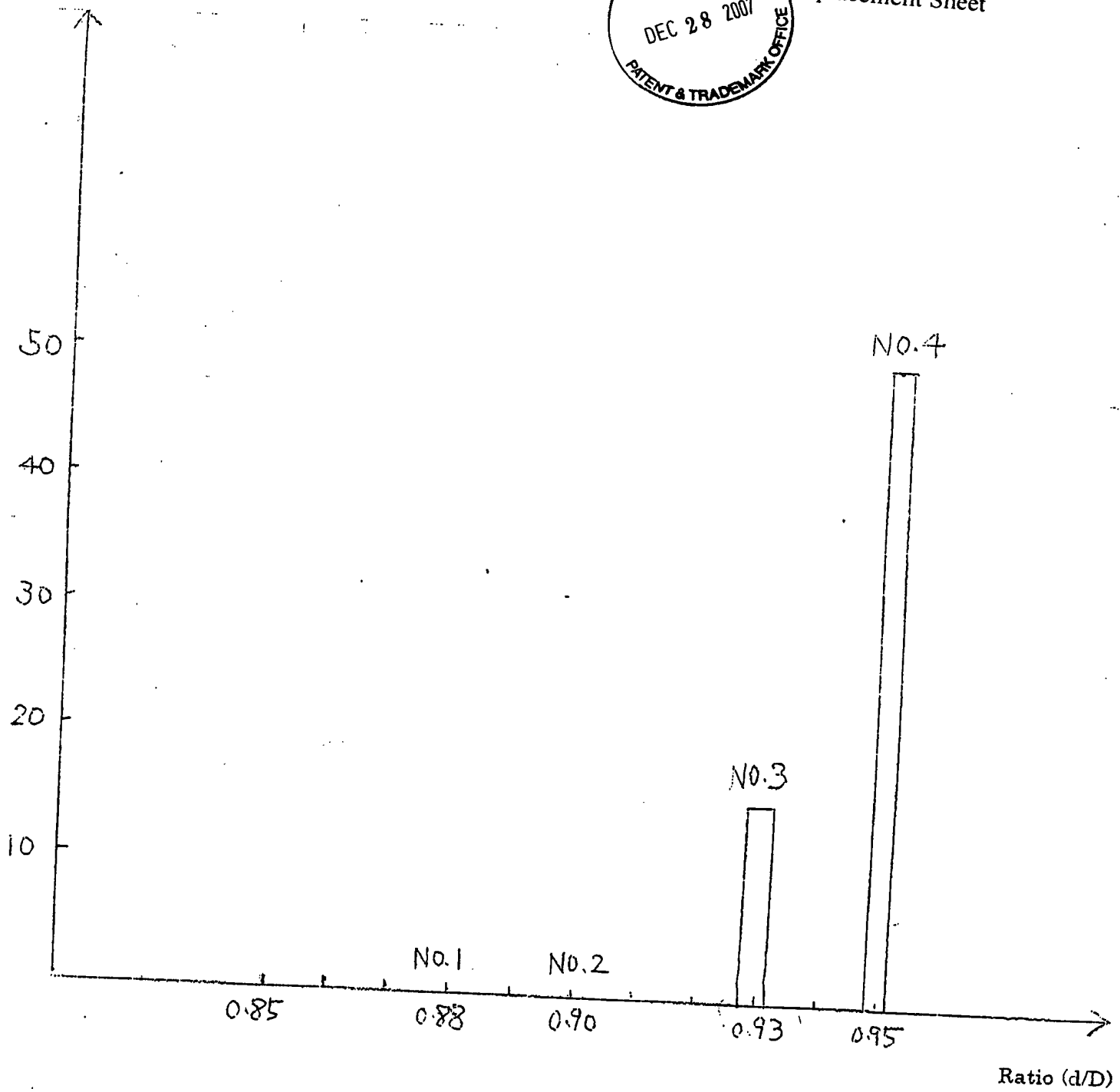


U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: 09/987,406
Art Unit No. 1731
Replacement Sheet



Graph 1 : Relationship between Eccentricity error and Ratio (d/D)

Number of test piece of which surface was damaged



Graph 2: Relationship between Number of test piece of which surface was damaged and Ratio (d/D)